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TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

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FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

FOL REPEAT OF MEXICO 4765 TO SECSTATE MAY 31

QTE:

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, MX

SUBJ: CODEL JAVITS - MEETING WITH PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA

1. SUMMARY: SENATOR JAVITS, ACCOMPANIED BY DCM (AMBASSADOR HAD PREVIOUS COMMITMENT WHICH HE COULD NOT BREAK), CALLED ON PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA AT LATTER'S INVITATION ON THE EVENING OF MAY 28. CORDIAL CONVERSATION CONCENTRATED MAINLY ON CO-OPERATION BETWEEN MEXICAN AND US BUSINESS COMMUNITIES AND, IN THAT CONTEXT, TOUCHED ON THE ROLE OF THE TRANS-NATIONAL CORPORATIONS AND THE CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES (CERDS). EXCHANGE OF REMARKS ON CUBA AND OPEC REPORTED SEPTELS.

2. AFTER THE AMENITIES, SENATOR JAVITS TOOK THE INITIATIVE TO EXPRESS HIS VIEWS. HE SAID HIS VISIT WAS PARTICULARLY TIMELY BECAUSE THE END OF THE VIETNAM WAR WOULD ENABLE THE US TO DEVOTE MORE ATTENTION TO EUROPE, WHERE IT HAD MAJOR
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SECURITY INTERESTS, AND LATIN AMERICA, ESPECIALLY MEXICO,

WHICH OFFERED THE GREATEST POSSIBILITY FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. SINCE MEXICO HAD CROSSED THE THRESHOLD OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, HE FORESAW GREAT POSSIBILITIES FOR MUTUAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN MEXICO AND THE UNITED STATES NOT ONLY IN MEXICO BUT ELSEWHERE IN LATIN AMERICA. MEXICO NEEDED CAPITAL, TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGERIAL EXPERTISE, WHILE THE US WANTED A PROSPEROUS TRADING PARTNER. AMERICANS LIKED MEXICANS AS EVIDENCED BY THE INCREASING NUMBER OF AMERICAN TOURISTS IN MEXICO. THERE WAS NO REASON WHY AMERICANS AND MEXICANS SHOULD NOT DEAL WITH EACH OTHER AS EQUALS IN MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL ECONOMIC ENDEAVORS.

3. TURNING TO TRANS-NATIONAL CORPORATIONS, SENATOR JAVITS REFERRED TO HIS PARTICIPATION IN THE UN GROUP OF 20 ON THIS SUBJECT AND SAID THERE WERE GOOD COMPANIES AND BAD COMPANIES. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THERE WAS A NEW GENERATION OF ENLIGHTENED AMERICAN BUSINESS LEADERS WHO WERE NOT AFRAID TO DO BUSINESS WITH FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS WHICH WERE SOCIALISTIC OR EVEN COMMUNIST. HE CONSIDERED HIMSELF AN ENLIGHTENED LIBERAL AND RECOGNIZED THAT LESS-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES MIGHT HAVE TO ADOPT SOCIALISTIC MEASURES TO DEAL WITH THEIR PROBLEMS. THIS DID NOT BOTHER HIM BECAUSE HE KNEW THAT THE COMMUNISTS WHO USUALLY GOT ALONG QUITE WELL WITH THE REACTIONARY CAPITALISTS CONSIDERED SOCIALISTS THEIR REAL ENEMIES.

4. SENATOR JAVITS DESCRIBED THE CERDS AS A VERY INTERESTING DOCUMENT WHICH DESERVED BROAD CONSIDERATION IN THE US IN TERMS OF ITS OBJECTIVES AND UNDERLYING MOTIVES. HE SAID IT WAS A MISTAKE TO FOCUS ONLY ON THE EXPROPRIATION ISSUE OR TO GET INTO ARGUMENTS ABOUT DETAILS. THE CHARTER AFTER ALL WAS ACCEPTED BY THE MAJORITY IN THE UN AND THEREFORE REPRESENTED UN LAW(SIC). THE US WOULD HAVE TO DECIDE HOW TO LIVE WITH IT. SENATOR JAVITS WAS CAREFUL NOT TO MAKE ANY COMMITMENTS, BUT PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA WAS OBVIOUSLY PLEASED BY THE FRIENDLY ATTITUDE OF THE SENATOR.

5. SENATOR JAVITS EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT US BUSINESS-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MEN WERE NOT WORRIED AS MUCH ABOUT THE DANGER OF EXPROPRIATION AS PROFITABILITY OR A CHANGE IN THE "RULES OF THE GAME" GOVERNING THEIR ACTIVITIES IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES. PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA OBSERVED, NEVERTHELESS, THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO PROBLEMS IN MEXICO FOR MANY YEARS AS REGARDS EXPROPRIATION.

6. PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA FREQUENTLY MANIFESTED AGREEMENT

DURING THE SENATOR'S PRESENTATION AND, AT ITS CONCLUSION, SUGGESTED THAT TO GIVE SOME TANGIBLE FORM TO THE IDEA OF COOPERATION BETWEEN MEXICAN AND AMERICAN BUSINESS, HE WOULD SEEK TO ORGANIZE A GROUP OF 20-30 MEXICAN BUSINESSMEN TOGETHER WITH 10-15 GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO CONSIDER HOW SUCH A PROGRAM MIGHT BE DEVELOPED. SENATOR JAVITS RESPONDED BY OFFERING TO TRY TO ORGANIZE A SIMILAR GROUP ON THE AMERICAN SIDE. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE TWO GROUPS MEET ON AN INFORMAL BASIS TO DISCUSS PRACTICAL PROJECTS FOR JOINT IMPLEMENTATION RATHER THAN THEORETICAL QUESTIONS. IN DISCUSSING THIS IDEA, PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA REFERRED SEVERAL TIMES TO HIS OLD AND GOOD FRIEND BERNARDO QUINTANA (PROMINENT MEXICAN BUSINESSMAN). LATER THAT EVENING, SENATOR JAVITS ALSO DISCUSSED THE IDEA AT A MEETING OF MEXICAN BUSINESSMEN AT A DINNER GIVEN BY MEXICAN BANKER AUGUSTIN LEGORRETA.

7. COMMENT: THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE MEETING WAS VERY CORDIAL, AND SENATOR JAVITS SKILLFULLY DOMINATED THE CONVERSATION, NO MEAN FEAT WITH PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE CONVERSATION, PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA PRESENTED THE SENATOR WITH TWO BOOKS AND ESCORTED HIM TO AN ANTE-ROOM WHERE HE LEFT HIM TO MEET WITH THE MEXICAN PRESS. THE THEMES DEVELOPED BY THE SENATOR WERE GENERALLY THE SAME ONES HE EXPOUNDED IN HIS PRESS INTERVIEWS AND LATER AT THE MEXICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE LUNCH.
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